

- (1) reacting an aqueous mixture of a silver salt with an alkanolamine to form a homogeneous aqueous solution of a dissolved silver alkanolamine complex;
 - (2) preparing an aqueous solution of a reducing agent and an alkanolamine; and
 - (3) mixing together the silver alkanolamine complex solution and the reducing agent alkanolamine solution at a pH buffered to the pH of the alkanolamine and a temperature of 10° C. to 100° C. to form finely divided spherical silver particles.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
- (4) separating the silver particles from the aqueous solution of step (3);
 - (5) washing the silver particles with deionized water; and
 - (6) drying the silver particles.
3. The method of claim 2 in which the silver particles are washed until the conductivity of the wash liquid is less than 20 micromhos.
4. The method of claim 1 in which the silver salt is silver nitrate.
5. The method of claim 1 in which the alkanolamine in step (1) and step (2) is selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, trietha-

nolamine, monoisopropanolamine, and diisopropanolamine.

6. The method of claim 1 in which the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of 1-ascorbic acid, d-isoascorbic acid, hydroquinone, quinone, and catechol.

7. The method of claim 1 in which the temperature is 10°-50° C.

8. The method of claim 1 in which the alkanolamine in step (1) and step (2) is diethanolamine, the reducing agent is 1-ascorbic acid, and the temperature is 20° C.-50° C.

9. The method of claim 1 in which the alkanolamine in step (1) and step (2) is monoethanolamine, the reducing agent is hydroquinone, and the temperature is 10° C.-25° C.

10. The method of claim 1 in which the alkanolamine in step (1) and step (2) is monoethanolamine and the reducing agent is d-isoascorbic acid.

11. The method of claim 1 in which step (2) precedes step (1).

12. The method of claim 1 in which steps (1) and (2) are conducted contemporaneously.

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